

THE Bloomfield Record.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

S. MORRIS HULIN, Editor and Proprietor

Office, 29 Broad Street.

FRIDAY, JANUARY, 17, 1896.

The School Question in Bloomfield.

A CURIOUS SITUATION

The statement that "the Attorney-General has declined to sanction the issue of the \$40,000 worth of school bonds voted by the Borough" has appeared at least twice in direct and positive form in the columns of the *Bloomfield Citizen*. From that source of misinformation it has made its way into other quarters, and is probably believed to-day by many people here in the Township. - The statement is absolutely untrue. There is no conceivable reason for it, except a desire to deceive. The Attorney-General has done nothing of the sort. His "action" which "has cast a gloom over the prospects of the Borough" is a mere invention of the author of these repeated statements.

The School District of the Borough stands precisely where it has stood since it was lawfully erected by the County Superintendent. It has not been touched, and is not likely to be touched, by the remarkable proceedings into which the paid promoters of strife between the Township and the Borough have dragged our School Trustees. But there is another side to the matter, which concerns Bloomfield and our own school interests a thousand times more than it concerns the citizens of Glen Ridge, or affects their school system.

Few people in town, possibly not all of the School Trustees themselves, have any correct idea of the bearings of this alleged "special charter" business, or of the consequences involved. The great majority have been told only that old legislation has been discovered which constitutes a special charter for "District Number Seven, formerly Central Union" and that by the provisions of the general School law of 1894 the existence of this special charter was an insurmountable bar to the erection of the Borough as a separate school district. They are likely to develop unpleasant emotions when they find that the immediate and only probable results of the move contrived by ingenuous mischief makers to harass the Borough, are to throw the school affairs of Bloomfield into helpless confusion, and to invite a decision that would invalidate most things done by the Bloomfield school authorities during a quarter of a century past, and plunge our school system into a condition of anarchy without precedent in the experience of any township in the State.

The "Eternal Litigation" Programme.

Mr. Gallagher's argument that the people of Bloomfield object to the carrying of storm water by the sewers of Glen Ridge, the same being "forbidden by the rules of Bloomfield," was extraordinary, and prompts the inquiry: Who built the sewers in Glen Ridge, and who is responsible for the running of surface or "storm water" in them?

The simple facts are that the sewers were built by Bloomfield's authorities, before the borough existed, and if storm water gets into them Glen Ridge can't help it. The learned counsel would have argued more to the point had he maintained that the law of gravitation ought to be repealed, or an "eternal" drought condemned, for the special benefit of leaky sewers.

No sane or sober business man would manage his personal affairs as public business is being mismanaged here. Bloomfield has paid, or rather will oblige its taxpayers to pay, about \$25,000 more for the sewers than was necessary under ordinary shrewd management. The fight is that still kept up against the borough has much to do with this.

These sewers have been built, some of them for more than a year, but the Bloomfield authorities have made as yet no attempt or effort to assess property for payment, but have paid for the sewers from demand notes, amounting in the aggregate to about \$100,000. These notes, drawing interest at 6 per cent are running along, when sewer construction bonds at a low rate of interest, should be out in their place.

The affairs of Bloomfield, political and financial, are badly mixed under the "eternal litigation" regime of those whose stubborn pride will not permit them to "give in" on this border question and let Glen Ridge go.

By and by the people of both municipalities will wake up and demand that a settlement be made equitable to both sides.

We venture to say that ten business men from Bloomfield and to

from Glen Ridge could get together and settle every question promptly and equitably, on a business basis, provided shyster lawyers and designing politicians be excluded from the negotiations.

Now that the flat of "eternal litigation" has gone forth it is time for the people of Bloomfield to wake up and knock this "eternal" nuisance in the head.

Let the People Decide.

The New York Sun has attacked with its characteristic ability and virulence the United States Senators who favor the free coinage of silver. We have no means of knowing whether the Sun's statements in regard to their gambling in and out of Wall Street are correct or not, but we easily believe that there is an intimate connection between the United States Senate and the stock gamblers. All that is needed to complete the picture is for some of the silver papers to make a like exposure of the Glen Ridge Senators.

These stories, however, are not of much great interest to the people as the Sun's charge that the silver senators misrepresent their constituencies. They may, or they may not, but in either case the Sun knows no more than any well-informed person known, and that is nothing.

Mr. Gallagher did not think this good law. The contention of Bloomfield was three fold. First, that it was a contract which should be expressly carried out; second, that there had never been a severance of territory between Glen Ridge and Bloomfield, and third, even if there had been such a severance, neither common law nor statute gave the municipality set off any title to property owned by the original corporation.

We know positively that the most influential club in Pennsylvania, the Manufacturer's Club of Philadelphia, comprising about 1000 of the wealthiest manufacturers in the country, are practically unanimous for silver. Their organ advocates free coinage of silver, and the editor, Heller Clark, who is also Secretary of the club, is a well known silver advocate. Does Senator Quay represent these constituents? Who knows?

The Union League of Philadelphia also has some very able advocates of silver. Submit the question to the people and we may have some surprises.

If each party had been represented in the Fifty-third Congress in proportion to the number of votes cast for that party, there would have been 153 Republicans instead of 127, 164 Democrats instead of 218, 31 Populists instead of 9, and 8 Prohibitionists instead of none. In the Fifty-fourth Congress there would be 165 Republicans instead of about 245, 135 Democrats instead of 100, 44 Populists instead of 11, and 8 Prohibitionists instead of none.

Representation does not represent. It is essentially unfair. It can be remedied by allowing the people to vote separately on any measure, whether passed by the legislature or not, which has been petitioned for by a minority of the voters substantial enough to show that it has some backing, and then letting the majority of the people decide. This is Direct Legislation.

Obituary.
The funeral of the late George W. Balwin was held on Monday evening. The Rev. Dr. Frazer, of Newark, conducted the services. Interment was made in the Bloomfield Cemetery.

Mrs. Mary C. Wilkie Lestrade, wife of Rev. J. Paul Lestrade, a retired clergyman, died at her home on Midland Avenue, after a lingering illness last Friday evening, aged 79 years. Funeral services were held on Monday, conducted by the Rev. George A. Paul of the Westminster Church, of which deceased was a member. Interment was made in Greenwood cemetery, Brooklyn.

Mahlon H. Griffiths, a member of Company B, 36th Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, died at his home in Newark, last Friday, aged 76 years. Funeral services were held on Sunday. Interment was made in the Bloomfield cemetery.

Charles N. Laterette, son of James Laterette of Maple St., who was injured by a fall from a scaffold upon which he was working, at Somerville, a short time ago, died at the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, on Sunday morning. He was 25 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child.

Mrs. Margaret, wife of Frank McCracken, of Davey St., died at the Mountaintop Hospital on Monday, after a brief illness, aged 49 years. Six children survive her. Funeral services were held from the Church of the Sacred Heart on Wednesday morning. Interment was made in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

Mathias M. Smith, a well known real estate operator, died suddenly of heart disease, at his residence on Linden Ave., last Saturday night, aged 50 years. Mr. Smith had resided in Bloomfield about five years, and owned considerable real estate in Essex County. He was a widower and leaves two children. He was recently elected an honorary member of Essex Hook and Ladder Company, and the flag was placed at half mast on Monday. Mr. Smith was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Funeral services were held in Calvary cemetery, New York.

Sarah Maria, daughter of the late William L. and Mary M. Brownson, died at her residence on Upper Broad St., on Tuesday. Funeral services were held this afternoon.

The infant child of William Flors, of Pine St., died on Wednesday.

BOROUGH AND TOWNSHIP.

Decision Reserved in the Case in Chancery Between Glen Ridge and Bloomfield About the Water and Sewer Systems

The demurrer on behalf of the borough of Glen Ridge to the two bills for injunction filed by the township of Bloomfield, to restrain the borough from using the water and sewer systems in the borough, was argued before Vice-Chancellor Reed on Tuesday. After Joseph Coulit had given his reasons why the bills should be dismissed, Mr. Gallagher, of Gallagher & Richards, argued that there was no statute under which public improvements could be divided between municipalities. The contract for water between Bloomfield and the Orange Water Company gave Bloomfield full power to control the water supply and the hydrants during the term of the lease.

"The position taken by Mr. Coulit," said Mr. Gallagher, "that not by any specific statute, but by common law, when a certain municipality is divided by legislative enactment such separate municipality becomes possessed of so much of the public property of the old one as lies within its limits."

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Muslin Underwear Surplus Sale Lots PRICES WHILE THEY LAST.

BEE HIVE, Newark, N. J.



Postmaster
THOMAS MORTIZ
Postmaster

List of letters remaining undelivered in the Post Office at Bloomfield N. J., for the week ending Jan. 17, 1896.

Curry, H. G. Dower, J.
Fascinator, S. Ferris, Mrs. Jennie O.
Fox, Lee. Gifford, S.
Holdridge, L. Waterford, Miss B.
Wilson, Mrs. A. H. Wogin, Harry

WILSON, Mrs. G. TOWER Postmaster

Letters to the Post Office at Glen Ridge, N. J., for the week ending Jan. 17, 1896.

Molin, Mrs. Catherine Mullin, Miss A.
Morgan, Mrs. Mary, Neuman, Miss L. F.
White, Mrs. (box 68) Wheaton, Mrs. F.
Wilson, Mr. (box 58)

WILSON, Mr. Wilson, Mr. (box 58)